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STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA, INR/R/MR, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAO CI MX

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY

On May 22, government-owned, editorially independent "La Nacion" (circ. 3,800) carried a column by defense journalist Raul Sohr entitled, "United States: Joe vs. Joe" on President Bush's recent announcement to deploy troops to the U.S.-Mexico border. Quote:

"The United States is a sovereign country and within its right to protect its borders and apply the immigration policy it deems best. It is clear, however, that the problem is not the border. As with drugs, as long as there is a demand there will be supply. It would be more effective to control those who hire millions of illegal workers who work for less than their legal counterparts.... But the explosive effect of President Bush's decision will not be felt in the United States.... For many families the largest source of income is the money sent by those working in the United States.... The export of their citizens has become the most profitable business for several countries...because unlike foreign investment and loans, the money directly reaches those who most need it."

KELLY